

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 153

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Gary Rankin and the Riverdale High School football team on capturing the TSSAA 5A State Championship

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Gary Rankin, the Riverdale High School football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2004 season, establishing a perfect record of fifteen wins and zero losses and winning the BlueCross Bowl Class 5A State Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, Riverdale rolled through the playoffs by prevailing over the powerhouse teams of Franklin County by the score of 41-0, Smyrna (35-0), Cookeville (28-7), and Oak Ridge (42-28) in a juggernautish romp into the state championship game; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors completed their perfect season by beating Franklin in the BlueCross Bowl by the score of 35-7, capturing the school's fourth state championship; and

WHEREAS, this herculean effort was led by the outstanding performances of quarterback Dave Thomas, who threw for 10 yards and ran for 119 yards and a touchdown, and running back Gaston Miller, who ran for 143 yards with four touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, eight Riverdale football players received *The Tennessean* All Mid-State honors: Gaston Miller, Justin Jones, Chris Perkins, Jermaine Alsup, Tamar Butler, Rahmel Oliver, Keaton Anderson, and Dave Thomas, who was also named *The Tennessean* Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dave Thomas, Justin Jones, Gaston Miller, Chris Perkins, Jermaine Alsup, Rahmel Oliver, and Keaton Anderson were named All-State football players by the Associated Press and the Tennessee Sports Writers Association; and

WHEREAS, Dave Thomas received the Prep Nation All American award, and Head Coach Gary Rankin garnered EA Sports National Coach of the Year honors; and

WHEREAS, Riverdale's explosive offense amassed an incredible 666 points during their 15 game season, an average of more than six touchdowns per game; and

WHEREAS, Riverdale's stingy defense allowed only 98 points to be scored by opponents throughout the season, an average of less than one touchdown per game; and

WHEREAS, the seniors providing leadership for Riverdale were Keaton Anderson, Marcae Brown, Dave Thomas, Joe Vanhooose, Austin Kusch, Wayne Hood, Max Wilkinson, Sean Kimbrough, Shawn Harris, Jermaine Alsup, Ricky Lawrence, Justin Jones, J.R. Parsley, Bryan Smotherman, Justin White, Rob Williams, Phillip Thomas, Seth McMasters, Rahmel Oliver, Jonathon Gooch, Leon Butler, Chris Perkins, and Chris Keil; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely points toward their successes in future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character, the Riverdale High School Warriors conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of those student athletes who have excelled both on the field and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Gary Rankin and the 2004 Riverdale High School football team on capturing the 2004 TSSAA Class 5A State Football Title.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.